Common Sense Methods Can Be Turned Into Money by Breeders.

IN TURKEY RAISING

PROFITS POSSIBLE

REARING POULTS EASY

B. ARCHIE VANDERVORT.

There is no question but that the greatest secret in successful turkey raisng is in having strong, vigorous, healthy parent stock. If you hatch eggs from this kind of stock the battle is certainly half won. In selecting the breeding stock the best birds are none too good and are the cheapest in the end, as your future stock depends almost entirely on the parent birds. Select a male with plenty of vigor and of good size, but do not use a bird of extreme heavy weight. Select females having long deep bodies, good bone and lots of vigor.

If yearling or two-year-old hens are used as breeders, mate them with a young tom; if pullets are used, select an older tom to head the flock. A good, vigorous tem can be mated with fifteen

to twenty hens, but as a rule it is not advisable to mate one tom with over ten or twelve hens.

The care of the breeding stock is the next important step. Much of the so-called bad luck in turkey raising, namely, infertile and soft shelled eggs and invariently infertile and soft shelled eggs. namely, infertile and soft shelled eggs and impaired vigor, is due to overfeed-ing. If the birds that have been se-lected as breeders have been allowed to fatten with the stock intended for mar-ket they should be reduced to medium flesh during the winter, as good results cannot be obtained from overfat

breeders.

The writer has found oats to be the best food for the turkey hens during the breedley season, and feeds this almost entirely with an occasional feed of wheat or corr. Charcoal, shells and grit are kept within easy reach at all times. Ground home also is feed as it. grit are kept within easy reach at all times. Ground bone also is fed, as it has a tendency to make the eggs more fertile. Just before the hens begin to lay, which is about the last of March or the first of April, make nests of straw along the fences in overturned barrels and in sectuded places, and use china nest eggs, and usually little trouble will be experienced in inducing the hens to lay in the nests provided for them.

The eggs should be gathered every day, kept in a sool place and turned once a day until they are set. It is a good plan to mark on each egg the date when it was laid, as by doing this one

when it was laid, as by doing this one knows exactly which eggs to set first. A turkey hen will lay from fifteen to eighteen eggs and then become broody. It is an easy matter to break one from setting if taken in time, and in this way secure an extra clutch of eggs, for she will lay again in a few days. I always allow the turkeys to hatch their own eggs, although they may be hatched with common hens. The turkey hen seems to understand the weakness of the poults better. She moves about slowly, brood-

er poults.

If chicken hens are used for hatching they should be set at the same time with the turkey hens, to which all the poults

may be given.

I set turkeys in coops and make the nest by scooping out the earth a depth of two or three inches. This prevents the eggs from rolling out and gives the required moisture. I then put in a layer of chaff. As a rule, I set eighteen eggs under each hen. It is a good plan to sprinkle the nest with a good lice powder or lice killer before putting the turkey on the nest. I do not remove the hen to the new nest until she has set two days on the old one, and then carefully remove her at night and place her upon the nest. After the first day I never the nest. After the first day I never have any trouble with them about going to their nests. The coops are opened every day and the hens can leave the nest and return at will. Place water and feed where they can get it at any time. It takes twenty-eight days for turkey eggs to incubate. I never disturb the turkey during the period of incubation. The poults are not removed from the nest until they are twenty-four hours old; then if the weather is dry they are removed to a coop in the orchard. they may be kept there during the severe rainy days. They then get water and grit, and when they are thirty-six hours old and have their first food, consisting of stale bread soaked in sweet milk and squeezed dry with the hand. I mix fine grit and a little pulverized charcoal with this and feed it for several days, after which I bake corn bread or Johnny cake, made of corn meal mixed with water or sweet skim milk and a little salt added, and thoroughly baked. This is moistened with mild and mixed with grit or sand and charcoal and given several days. They are fed just what they will cat up at once and none is left to sour. They should destroy them, threase will open the pores.

disinfected at least once a week.

The poults are confined in the orchard until they are ten days or two weeks old and then get the range of the farm. but are driven up and confined in the orchard every night until they learn to come home of their own accord. At this age they are fed cracked wheat and oat groats, but the baked corn meal is continued, alternating the two. Gittis in every feed whether wet or dry, and charcoal at least once a day. When the young poults begin to get their long flight feathers they require extra care and attention. These seem to grow so rapidly sometimes as to sap their vitality, and when they begin to walk around with wings drooped I pull out that had "treed" it. around with wings drooped I pull out that had "treed" it.

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these flight feathers, which stops all this By this time the poults are six weeks

old and weigh around two pounds. They are then fed nore liberally on grain, and I also keep before them cottage cheese, in which I put a little onlon tops chopped old; then if the weather is dry they are removed to a coop in the orchard, which is enclosed with a high wire fence. I place clabbered milk where they can Their coop should be dry and roomy, with a reof to shed the water so that they may be kept there during the settlement of the should be dry and roomy, with a reof to shed the water so that they may be kept there during the settlement of the settl

and none is left to sour. They should destroy them. Grease will open the pores not receive sloppy or sour food, as and hence should not be used on a damp bowel trouble will result. The turkey day, or the poults will take cold. If a bowel fround with result.

thens with the poults have the range of the crecker of the orchard during the day and are it and dust vigorously for lice. This driven into their coops at night. If the will often revive the poult surprisingly.

weather is damp or the grass wet the brood must be kept in, for dampness is fatal to the poults. Turkeys are very susceptible to filth. Coops and feed dishes should be kept clean and the coop.

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ong and then get the range of two weeks but are driven up and confined in the orchard every night until they learn to come home of their own accord. At this age they are fed cracked when the control of their own accord.

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New York Sun, N. Y.

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size.

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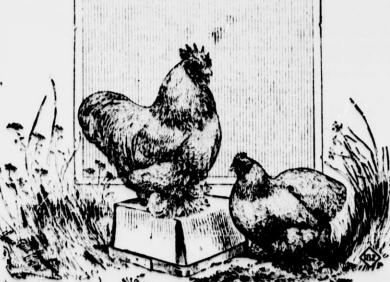
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